

Partnership for Information and Democracy

Support for the *Journalism Trust Initiative*

Pledge

We, the States participating in the "International Partnership for Information and Democracy" ;

Recalling the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers;

Recognising that the global information and communication space is undergoing rapid change, in particular with the development of the Internet, that it is a common good of great value to democracy, which requires specific protection to ensure that it remains global, open and accessible to all, and that the activities of public authorities or private actors should not, directly or indirectly, unduly restrict it;

Considering that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is fundamental to the exercise of other human rights and fundamental freedoms and that access to reliable information is essential to the exercise of freedom of opinion;

Recalling that information can be recognised as reliable insofar as its collection, processing and dissemination are free, independent, diverse and based on the cross-referencing of several sources, in a pluralistic media landscape where facts can give rise to varied interpretations and points of view;

Recognising also the importance of public trust in and credibility of journalism, and the difficulties journalists face in maintaining their professionalism in an environment of targeted disinformation and smear campaigns to discredit their work;

Welcoming the work done by the Information and Democracy Forum, in its reports "*How to end infodemics*" and "*A New Deal for Journalism*", to make non-binding recommendations to all stakeholders, States, private digital actors and media;

- commit ourselves to supporting and encouraging the development of self-regulatory practices by actors in the information and communication space, in particular the *Journalism Trust Initiative*, an independent and transparent certification initiative aimed at fostering and promoting ethically and independently operating media, developed by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and some one hundred non-governmental organizations, media unions and consumer associations;

- call on other states to support the *Journalism Trust Initiative* and thus promote free, independent, pluralistic and financially sustainable media.

New York, 22 September 2022

Signatory States: Andora, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Greece, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia